

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-26.

1-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Original): A diagnostic and therapeutic instrument, comprising:

a body having a first upper surface, a second lower surface disposed opposite from said upper surface, and opposing lateral surfaces, said upper and lower surfaces converging at a first end to define a blunt tissue-engaging edge and diverging at an opposing second end to define a comparatively larger second end defined by a surface extending between said upper and lower surfaces, said opposing lateral surfaces extending vertically between said upper and lower surfaces and longitudinally between said first and second ends of said instrument body.

28. (Original): The instrument as in Claim 27 wherein said upper surface is defined by a continuously curved surface extending at least partially along the length of said instrument body between said first and second ends thereof.

29. (Original): The instrument as in Claim 27 wherein said lower surface is defined by a continuously curved surface extending at least partially along the length of said instrument body between said first and second ends thereof.

30. (Original): The instrument as in Claim 27 wherein said instrument body is constructed of a resin ceramic composite material having resonant capabilities.

31. (Original): A hand-held instrument for engaging and applying pressure to the skin of patient in the diagnosis or treatment of underlying fibrotic soft tissue, comprising:

a rigid unitary body having an upper surface, a lower surface disposed opposite from said upper surface, said upper and lower surfaces converging at a first end to define a blunt tissue-engaging edge generally coinciding with the intersection of said upper and lower surfaces and diverging at an opposing second end to define a comparatively larger second end disposed opposite from said first end, and opposing lateral surfaces extending vertically between said upper and lower surfaces and longitudinally between said first and second ends of said instrument body,

said upper surface being defined by a gradually convexly curved surface extending at least partially and longitudinally along the length of said instrument body between said first and second ends thereof,

said lower surface being defined by a gradually concavely curved surface extending at least partially and longitudinally along the length of said instrument body between said first and second ends thereof.

32. (Original): The hand-held instrument as in Claim 31 wherein the upper surface is slightly crowned along a direction transverse to the length of said instrument body.

33. (Original): The hand-held instrument as in Claim 31 wherein, in the use of said instrument, the blunt end of the first end of said instrument body engages the skin of the patient.